

FEDERAL REPORT

The Forest Insect and Disease Detection Program in West Virginia is relatively new. On April 1, 1966 West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture (Gus R. Douglass) signed a contract between the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service, Division of State and Private Forestry for this program. Cooperating agencies include the Forestry Division of the West Virginia Dept. of Natural Resources, the Dept. of Plant Pathology and Bacteriology of West Virginia University and the United States Dept. of Agriculture.

Forest Insects - Conditions in Brief (General Conditions)

The populations of forest insects were normal during 1968. Several insects are on an upward trend and are expected to cause defoliation in various areas of the state. When comparing forest insect conditions in 1966-1967-1968 we find an increasing level of populations of the fall webworm, locust leaf miner, mimosa webworm, linden looper, eastern tent caterpillar and the forest tent caterpillar.

CathedralForest Tent Caterpillar-(Malacosoma disstria) Mbn.

Moderate populations of the forest tent caterpillar were observed in Tucker, Barbour, Preston, Monongalia, Randolph, Mineral, Hampshire, Grant and Hardy Counties. The other parts of the state showed no increase or an absence of this insect. Populations are expected to increase next year and the peak of the cycle is expected in the early 1970's (See map in appendix). Insect populations were not large enough to warrant control measures.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar-(Malacosoma americana) F.

Heavy defoliation by this pest of the host plants was abundant throughout the state with the exception of Webster, Randolph, Tucker, Preston, Berkeley and Jefferson Counties. A wilt disease has been found in all nests that were examined and populations are expected to start decreasing by 1970. Control measures have been applied by landowners and orchardists. No large scale spraying has been contemplated because host plants are not abundant. In large areas. (See map in appendix). The insect has not been abundant in the Cheat Mountain Range because of the late freezes and very cold temperatures recorded in this climate.

Linden Looper-(Erannia tillicaria) (Harr.)

Moderate to heavy populations of this insect were observed in Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, Morgan, Jefferson, Berkeley and Mineral Counties. Complete defoliation of hardwoods on Rt. 28 just north of Romney in 1967 was believed to be caused by this insect. Severe damage to scarlet oaks in Kanawha State Forest was caused by the linden looper and the fruit tree leaf roller Archips argyrospila. Populations are expected to increase next year and may cause wide spread defoliation. No control methods were applied. (Map in appendix)

Mimosa Webworm-(Homodaula albizziae) wheeling.

The southwest South Branch Valley of Potomac River in Grant and Hardy Counties, Kanawha Valley, lower portion of Elk Valley, Cabell and Wayne Counties were heavily infested in W. Va. Heavy populations of this insect are expected next year. No control methods were applied except in local areas by individual landowners.

Locust Leaf Miner-(Xenochalepus dorsalis).

This insect was abundant throughout the state with the heaviest damage being recorded in southern and central W. Va. Populations are expected to increase in 1969. No control methods were used to suppress the miner.

Fall Webworm-(Hyphantria cunea) Drury.

Approximately 5,000 acres of hardwoods were heavily infested in Hancock County. Moderate infestations were observed in Monongalia, Preston and Mingo Counties. The insect is expected to move southward into neighboring counties next year. Trees are not affected to a great extent since the growing season is about complete when this insect attacks the favored host. The Wild Black Cherry was most affected. No control methods were applied. (Map in appendix)

Tulip Poplar Leaf Miner-(Odontopus calceatus) Say.

Insect levels were above normal in all parts of the state. In 1965 this insect was localized in the southwestern section of the state. By 1968 all host trees encountered were damaged by the miner. The Eastern Panhandle is not affected because of lack of host trees. An upward trend is expected next year. (Map in appendix)

Oak Leaf Tier-(Croesia semipurpurana) Kearfoot.

Large areas of scarlet oak were infested in 1966 and light feeding in 1967. A late freeze in 1967 is thought to have controlled the expected outbreak of this insect. Populations were not abundant this year but may increase next year. Control measures were planned for 1967 but natural factors checked the expected outbreak.

Cone Insects-

Red spruce cones were collected, dissected and examined last fall. Of the first 1,004 cones, 210 or 20.9% were damaged by cone inhabiting insects. A tremendous cone insect crop is expected this year. More cones will be collected and attempts will be made to rear out insects.

Pine Leaf Aphid-(Pineus pinifoliae) Fitch.

This insect was extremely abundant throughout the natural range of white pine in 1967.

A survey was conducted in February to delimit the exact range of the infestation. (Map in appendix)

Periodical Cicada-(Magicicada septendecim) L&M. Fish.

Brood eight appeared in the extreme northern Panhandle this past summer. Damage from the egg laying activities of the females was of moderate proportions. Brood nine will appear in southeastern West Virginia next year.

Landowners in northern Panhandle covered small plants to prevent attack of the cicada to the stems. (Map in appendix)

Asiatic Weevils

Hickory Engraver Beetle

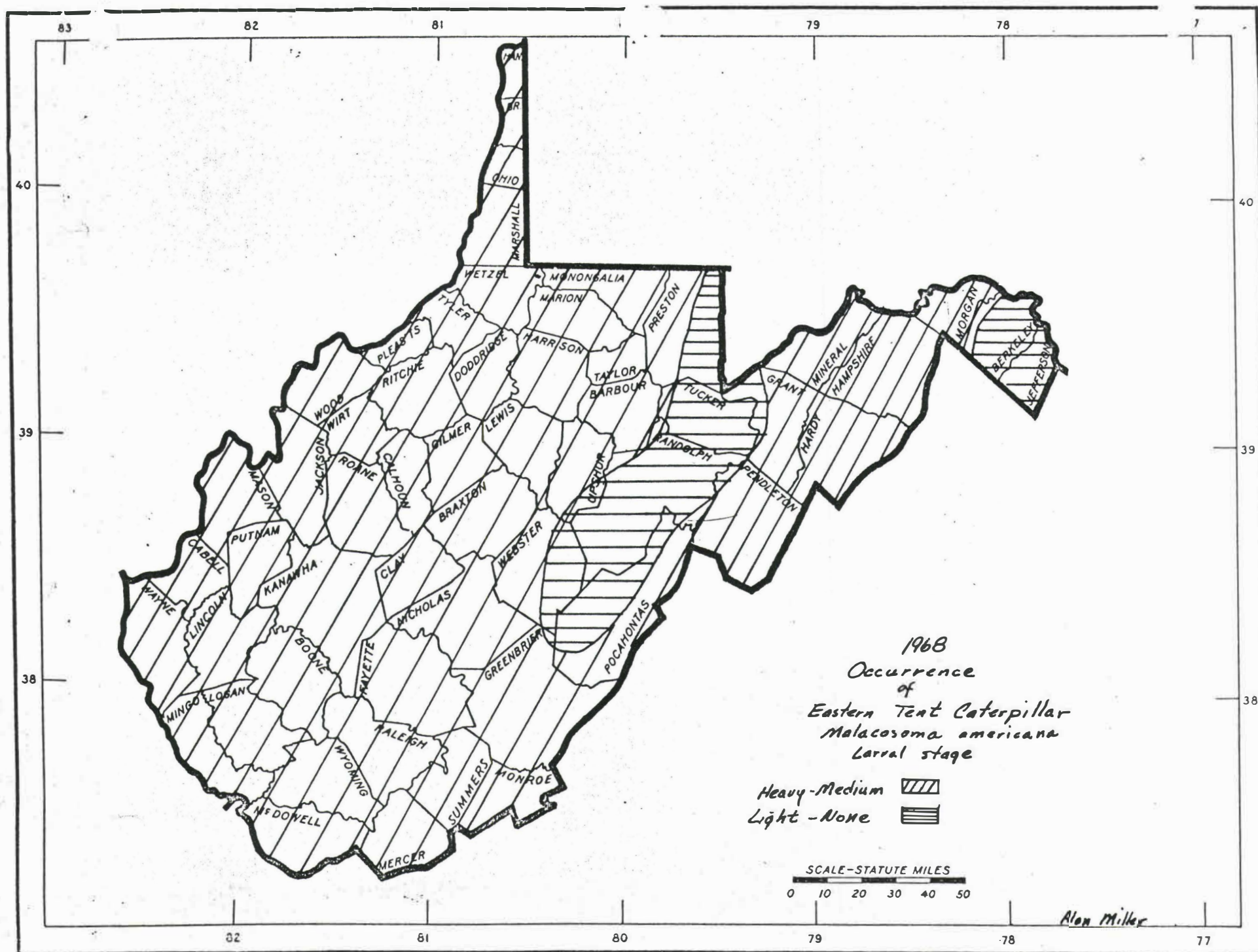
Northern Pine Weevil

Giant Hickory Aphid

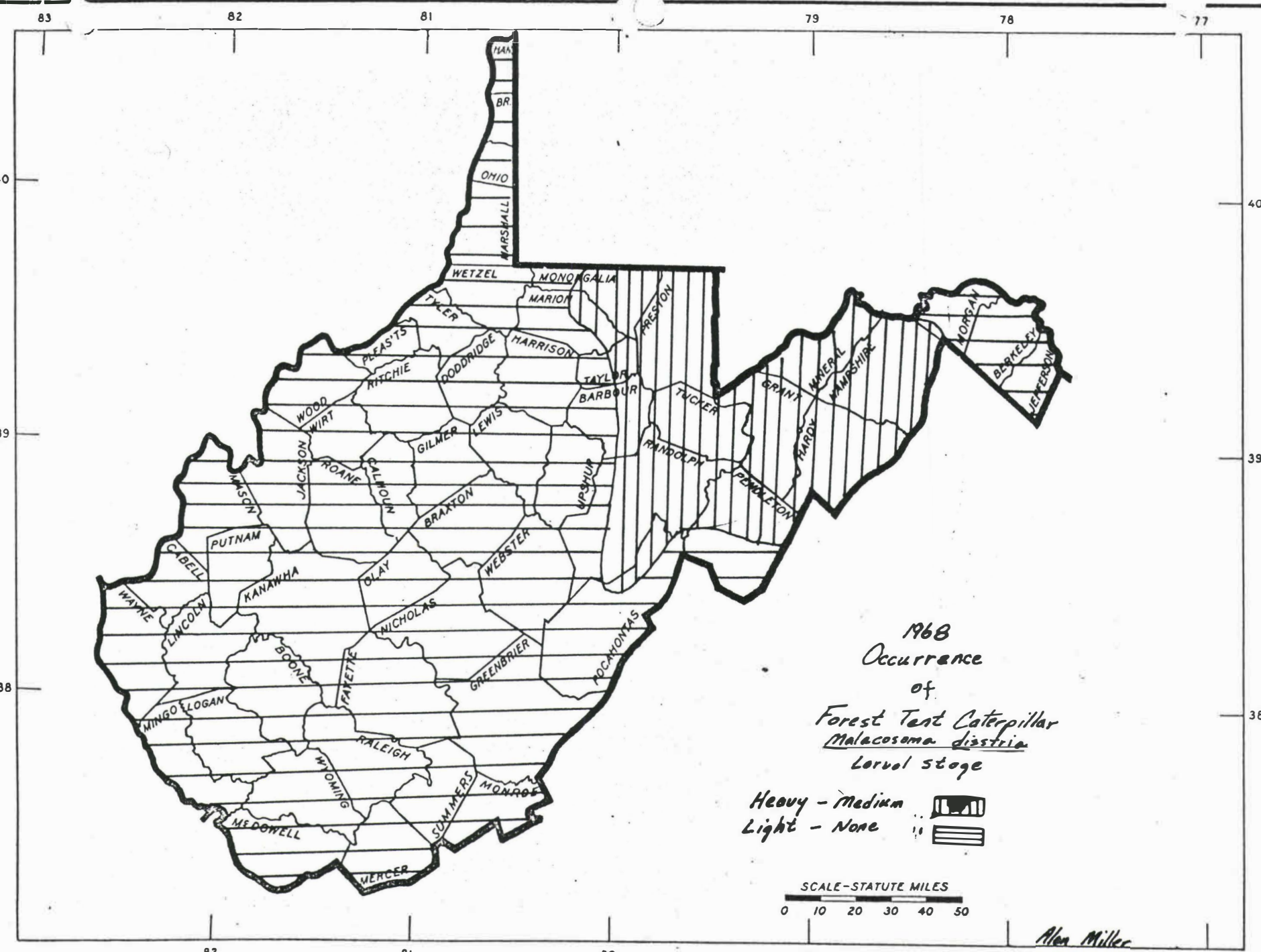
Elm Leaf Beetle

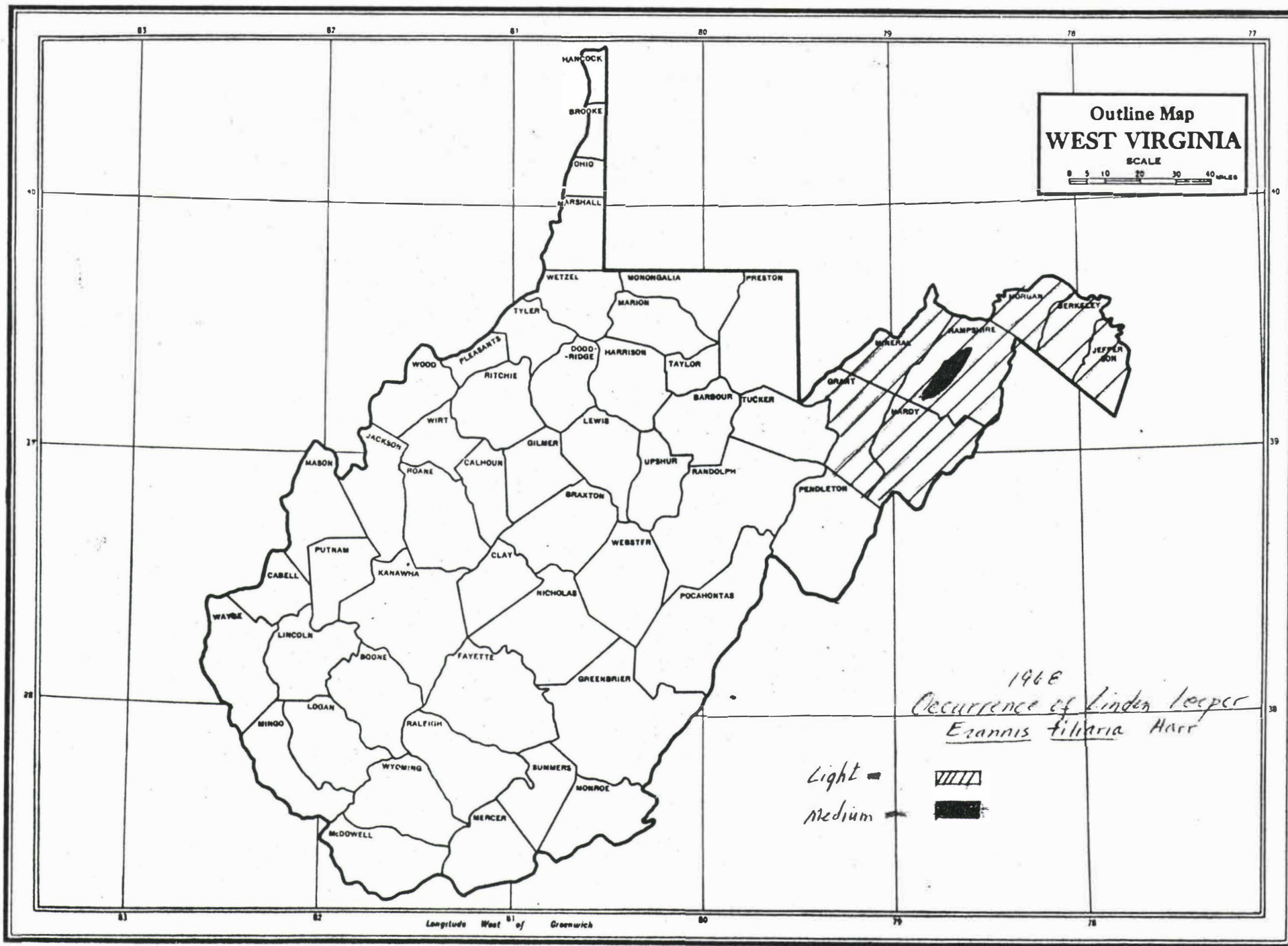
New Virginia Pine Sawfly - Neodiprion pratti pratti.

WEST VIRGINIA

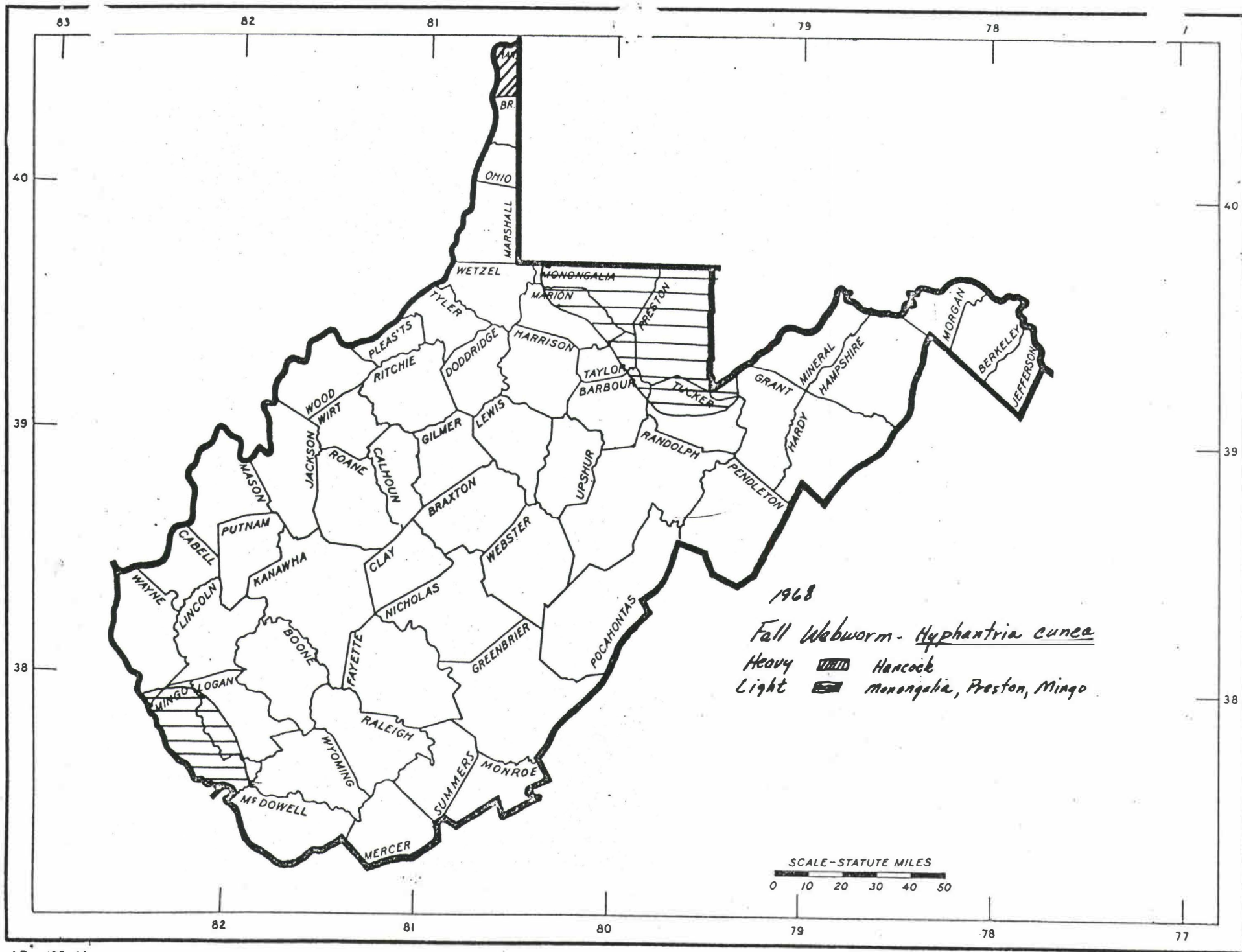


WEST VIRGINIA







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Periodical cicada - Brood VIII 1968

*1968
Survey for Pine Leaf Aphid
Pineus pinefoliae*

Heavy 
Light 

SCALE-STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50

Alan Miller

